

## HOUSE REJECTED GORDON'S MOTION

Little Hope Now of Fee Reform Legislation at Hands of Present Session.

### LONG DEBATE AND WRANGLE

Louisa Member Fails to Discharge Finance Committee From Further Consideration.

The prospect for fee reform legislation in the remaining twelve days of this session is becoming exceedingly remote, notwithstanding campaign pledges, and the protestations of many members on the floor. Mr. Gordon, of Louisa, yesterday moved again to discharge the House Finance Committee from further consideration of his fee bill, in order that it might be placed on the House calendar, and after an hour's debate the motion was rejected, 47 to 37. Mr. Gordon explained that his bill, when first introduced, had been referred to the Committee for Courts of Justice, since it referred to the fees of court clerks, sheriffs and other court officers. It was reported favorably, and took its place on the House calendar as House bill No. 131.

Reported an Amended Bill. Later motion was made to refer it to the Finance Committee, and it was so referred. Meanwhile, the Finance Committee has reported in amended form what has been described as a "watered" and entirely harmless bill, introduced by Colonel Brewer, of Suffolk, but modified by committee amendments.

The Brewer bill, as amended, is on the House calendar as House bill No. 171, and it is regarded as improbable that it will be reached in time for final action during the remaining twelve days. Mr. Gordon said that all he wanted was a fair deal, and no favors. He would not object to the committee reporting his bill adversely, but he did object to having it smothered in committee in such a way as to give the House an opportunity to dodge voting on it.

The Brewer bill, he went on, allowed \$5,000 a year in fees with an unlimited allowance for deputies and expenses. A fee of \$100, he said, would have all of his work done for him by paid deputies, and draw his \$5,000 for doing nothing. It would enable him to employ deputies for electioneering purposes, and would give to men who did nothing to earn it higher salaries than the State paid to the Governor or Judges of the Court of Appeals.

Weaver Defends Measure. Chairman Weaver, in an extended defense of the Finance Committee, and was getting on well with it, when Mr. Myers asked: "Is it the duty of the Finance Committee to protect the officeholders or the taxpayers?" Mr. Weaver said that was a "clapnet" argument that he would not attempt to answer. Mr. Woodward, of Norfolk, wanted to know why the chairman of the Finance Committee so strenuously objected to the House voting on one of its own bills. Mr. Weaver answered that he was fighting to protect the calendar from a glut of bills.

Mr. Chalkley asked as a point of parliamentary inquiry whether if the committee were discharged, the bill would take its numerical place on the calendar as No. 131, given it was first reported, or whether it would go at the bottom of the calendar. The chair ruled that it would take its numerical place, and as would be reached near the 100 bill mark. Mr. Chalkley's bill, Mr. Oliver spoke vehemently against the discharge of the committee, and after an hour of debate, when there was pending a storm of motions and protests, Mr. Baker moved the previous question. He withdrew it to allow the chair to recognize Colonel Brewer, patron of the only fee bill on the calendar—No. 271.

Colonel Brewer said that that bill as amended was not what he wanted, but that under present conditions it was the only bill that could become a law before this Legislature. He called the attention of the House to the fact that in former sessions he was the first member to introduce a bill reforming the fee system, and while the bill was not altogether satisfactory, he was anxious to make a start toward some legislation at this session.

Would Dismiss Committee. The motion to dismiss the committee was rejected 47 to 37, as follows: Ayes—Messrs. Branscomb, Brown, Browning, Cawley, Chalkley, Commons, Dalton, Harman, Feltus, Frank, H. Gordon, Harrison, Harvey, Horner, Massey, Meade, Miller, Myers, Nolan, Norris, Phillips, Pitts, Powell, Price, New, Robertson, Roke, Smith, W. Smith, Steck, Stephenson, Stubbs, Taylor, Tiffany, Walton, H. C. Weaver, Whiston, Woodward—37.

Noes—Messrs. Baker, Barclay, Burrell, Bonifant, Brewer, Chapman, Clement, Crockett, John Orr Daniel, J. William, Daniel, Dodson, Easley, Field, Flanagan, Grant, Grady, Gunn, Harris, Hartley, Hobson, Houston, Huff, Hughes, Johnson, Jordan, Kent, Land, Leedy, Lincoln, Love, Lowry, Malbon, Milledam, Montague, Nease, Oliver, Owen, Pennington, Powers, Radford, Reed, Harry B. Smith, Stearns, Toney, J. J. Weaver, Williams, Speaker Cox—47.

Leedy Resents Dictation. Holding in his hand an afternoon paper of Friday, in which was printed copies of certain telegrams sent by officers of the State Federation, or any other of the bills that have come upon us from the wild and woolly West—all sorts of platitudes from John Brown down to the chinch bug have come from that section.

On motion of Mr. Weaver the reso-

lution providing for a committee of

twenty to study the tax question was

recommitted to the Committee on Finance.

The committee has agreed to

report in its place a bill for a committee

of fifteen.

The Baker-Stubbs pension bill was

debated for some time yesterday, some

of the most earnest appeals for increased

relief being made by Messrs. Lowry,

Stubbs and other Confederate veterans

in the House, while from other sources

came the usual run of speeches, in

which there were loud protests that

if every other item were cut out of

the appropriation bill the veterans

should have all they wanted.

Increase of 20 Per Cent. For the last two years the pension

appropriation has been \$500,000, and

for 1913 about \$520,000 of this amount

reverted. The Committee on Approp-

riations, after careful study of the

question by a subcommittee headed by

Captain Baker, recommended a general

pension bill consolidating into one act

all acts relating to Confederate pen-

sions, and making a new scale of pen-

sions which averaged an increase of

20 per cent. To carry this into effect

the appropriation bill, as reported to

the House, carries an item of \$540,000

a year for pensions. Support of Lee

Camp Soldiers' Home and other distinct-

ly Confederate items listed under the

head of pensions, bring the total ap-

propriation to \$600,000. The Senate

appropriation bill also carries the item

for general Confederate pensions at

\$510,000 for each year.

A number of amendments have been

offered by Messrs. Chalkley, Radford,

Pennington, Spatig, Lowry, Oliver,

Hedlin, Johnson, Stubbs and others. All

of these have been printed, and while

exact data as to the probable effect is

not available, Auditor of Public Ac-

counts C. Lee Moore has reported to

the House that to carry out the fur-

ther extensions contemplated in the

Lowry amendments would make the

cost of pensions \$600,000 a year. The

amendments further increase the

amount paid by about 15 per cent, and

also alter the provisions of the present

statute as to the date at which wid-

ows who married Confederate sol-

diers after the war are eligible, and

still further increase the limit of prop-

erty that a veteran may hold and still

be eligible.

Must Live Within Income. Speaking for the Appropriations

Committee, Judge Williams repeated

the warning Chairman Brewer gave

on the previous day. The committee

has abandoned all hope of reducing

taxes, and reported an appropriation

bill carrying for two years about \$15,

000,000, which on the closest calcula-

tions of probable income made by

Chairman Brewer and Auditor Moore,

will leave the State a surplus of only

\$125,000 at the end of the two years. It

was useless, Judge Williams said, to

think of further increasing the approp-

riation bill. He agreed with all Mr.

Lowry said about the desirability of

making more ample provision for old

men, who will not live long to enjoy

the bounty of the State, while various

institutions could wait. To carry the

amendments into effect would require

\$600,000 a year, in addition to what was

provided in the bill. If any one would

move to transfer that amount from the

normal schools or from roads, Judge

Williams said, he would vote with them

to add it to pensions. He would

strongly oppose, however, any dis-

counting, even for pensions, which was

calculated to leave the State with a de-

ficit at the end of the legislative

period. After prolonged debate, Mr.

Bonifant moved the pending question,

which was ordered.

The hour for the special order to

hear Mr. Bryan arrived before the vote

could be taken, however, and the bill

was over until to-morrow, when it

will come up as the first matter on the

calendar. More than thirty amend-

ments are on the clerk's desk, to be

voted on. The vote for the pending

question closed all debate, and the

House will dispose of the amendmen-

ts in their order, and that will put

the bill on its passage. The appropriation

bill is the special order continuing order

for Tuesday at 10:15 o'clock. Not

withstanding the care with which it

has been prepared, after about six

weeks of nearly continuous work on

the part of the Appropriations Com-

mittee, there are already indications

that some members will seek to cut it

to pieces and materially alter its pro-

visions.

THE SENATE

The Senate renewed its consideration

of the primary bill yesterday, begin-

ning with the third section, where it

stopped at adjournment on Friday.

From 12:30 o'clock, when the bill came

up as a special order, until 1:45 o'clock,

when the Senate adjourned to join the

House in receiving Secretary of State

William Jennings Bryan, the members

debated various amendments dealing

with election judges, with making

any progress. When adjournment cut

off further consideration the bill stood

exactly as it was when it was taken up.

Debate was resumed on Senator

Gravatt's amendment, which was taken

up as a special order, on Friday, mak-

ing the regular election judges

judges of primary elections. The bill

provides a separate set of judges for

primaries, to be appointed by the elec-

toral boards.

Against Mixed Judges. Senator

Rison, of the Committee on Privileges

and Elections, opposed the Gravatt

amendment. It would have the effect,

he said, of placing a board of three

judges, one of whom, under the law,

will be a Republican in charge of

primary elections whether they be

Democratic or Republican primaries.

It would be highly questionable, he

thought, to have a Republican judge

connected in any way with a Democra-

tic primary or vice versa.

Senator Patton, of Wise, one of the

Republican members, sought to remove

what he regarded as a discrimination

against his party in the bill, by an

amendment which would give the mi-

nority party represented on the elec-

toral boards. If the amendment were

accepted, he said, he would support

the bill.

Senator Sowder, another member of

the minority, could see no good to

other party in bi-partisan boards of

judges. He offered an amendment pro-

viding for separate primary officials

for each party, even when both parties

hold their primary on the same day.

The plan was supported by Senator

Gravatt, who thought it was sound in

principle, but might be open to objec-

tion on account of the expense involved.

Debate on these and several other

amendments that were taken up deak

shortly before adjournment was in full

progress when the Senate took recess

to join the House in the exercises of

reception. None of the amendments

reached a vote. They will be taken

up in the order in which they were

offered at 12:30 o'clock to-morrow at

ternoon when the primary bill will

again be the special order of business.

Senate Bills Passed. The following

Senate bills on their third reading were

passed and sent to their engrossment:

Providing for the creation and main-

tenance of a legislative reference bu-

reau. Patrons, Senators Garrett and

May.

Regulating contracts of surety be-

tween common carriers and their em-

ployees and sureties upon such contracts.

Patron, Senator Gayle.

Amending section 504 of the Code

relative to the contents of the per-

sonal property tax book. Patron, Sena-

tor Brock.

Amending the act approved Janu-

ary 18, 1904, providing for the con-

tinuance of the annual toll on turn-

pikes. Patron, Senator Tavenner.

Amending the charter of the town of

Chatham, Pittsylvania County. Patron,

Senator Rison.

Prescribing of actions and regulations for

the bringing of actions against any

city of this Commonwealth for dam-

age to persons or property alleged to

have been caused by reason of negli-

gence of a city or any of its em-

ployees. Patron, Senator Leaser.

Amending the present laws relative

to the transportation of dead bodies.

Patron, Senator Harman.

Providing for a change in the form

of government of cities having a popu-

lation of less than 100,000 and of towns

and providing in what manner such

cities and towns may adopt such forms

of government. Patrons, Senators

Forthester and Dreyer.

House bill authorizing the town of

Onancock, Accomac County, to borrow

money.

Amending the charter of the city of

Richmond in relation to the bond re-

quired of the City Treasurer. Patrons,

Senators Harman and Cannon.

# CONTINUED ONE WEEK LONGER, ON ACCOUNT OF THE WEATHER

## February Clearance Sale!

